

News Items for 2014 - November

Early College student Ernst discovers rare Pulsar

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Created By: April Nutter



In June, Rowan County Senior High School senior Sonny Ernst made what would recently be confirmed as a scientific discovery of some significance - a rare type of pulsar.

Pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars that emit lighthouse-like beams of radio waves as they rotate at fantastic velocities. A neutron star is the remnant of a massive star that has exploded at the end of its normal life. With no nuclear fuel left to produce energy to offset the stellar remnant's weight, its material is compressed to extreme densities. The pressure squeezes together most of its protons and electrons to form neutrons; hence, the term neutron star. Neutrons are so incredibly dense that one tablespoon of material from a pulsar would weigh 10 million tons -- as much as a supertanker.

A presentation by Ernst, Dr. Dirk Grupe, MSU's assistant professor of astrophysics, and others including Dr. Joe Swiggum, a pulsar expert and research scientist from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, will be held Thursday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. at the Space Science Center [Star Theater](#). The event is free and open to the public.

"This is a significant discovery," said Dr. Ben Malphrus, chair of the [Department of Earth and Space Sciences](#). "RRAT pulsars are excellent laboratories for general and special relativity theory as well as being interesting in an astrophysical sense as extreme stellar endpoints."

The discovery of a rotating radio transient once again puts the spotlight on a Rowan County Senior High School student. In 2011, Hannah Mabry became the first high school student in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to discover a millisecond pulsar. The following year (2012), Jessica Pal became only the second student from Kentucky to be listed as a discoverer of a millisecond pulsar. With the 2014 discovery, Ernst has become the first high school student from Kentucky to discover the rare rotating radio transient or RRAT. He is also listed by PSC as the sole discoverer of this particular rotating radio transient.

An MSU [Early College](#) student, Ernst performed the research leading to this discovery through his participation in a project designed to involve high school students in research in astrophysics called the Pulsar Search Collaboratory (PSC). The PSC is a joint project of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and West Virginia University, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and implemented at RCSHS in collaboration with Morehead State that offers college credit to students involved in the program.

Students in the program pore through enormous amounts of data looking for evidence of pulsars in the datasets. Teacher Jennifer Carter spurred the students to go beyond class assignments, often spending their spare time sifting through the charts and graphs from the radio telescopes in search of an elusive pulsar. Ernst, along with more than 2,500 students across the nation, had been working together in the analysis of the data. The responsibility for the work, and for the discoveries, is theirs. They are trained by astronomers and by their teachers to distinguish between pulsars and noise. Ernst made the discovery by methodically sifted through 850 points of freshly released data.

"Sonny Ernst is one of the most tenacious kids I know," said Carter. "He has sifted for hundreds of hours and through hundreds of plots searching for signs of pulsars.

Ernst's discovery is special because it is a rotating radio transient or RRAT, what some scientists believe to be a dying pulsar. While pulsars, many of which are billions of years old, are relatively new to the scientific world (the first one was discovered just over 40 years ago), the rotating radio transients are even newer still. The first RRAT was discovered in 2006. Since then, just over 85 rotating radio transients, including the one discovered by Ernst, have been discovered.

For additional information, contact Dr. Malphrus at 606-783-2381.

MSU to host 21st annual MPATE day

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Some of the region's best and brightest high school students will participate in the 21st annual Math, Physics and Technical Education (MPATE) Day at Morehead State University on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Juniors and seniors who excel in sciences will gather at MSU for a day of competition and fun with their peers from other schools, while expanding their educational horizons in those academic disciplines.

The participants, all recommended by their teachers, will be divided into teams of four students. The team members will represent four different schools, to afford the students an opportunity to get to know their peers from other counties or school districts.

"Once the teams are formed, they will have approximately two and one-half hours of problem-solving exploration activities, involving math, physics, computer science or industrial and engineering technology," said Dr. Tim O'Brien, associate professor of mathematics and MPATE Day coordinator.

Some of the activities will be hands-on practical exercises, while others will be completed with pen and paper.

Various MSU faculty and staff members from the College of Science and Technology will lead the explorations.

Each of the different activities is scored, and the team with the highest score at the end of the day's events will be declared the winner.

Following the competitive portion of the day, a luncheon and awards ceremony will be held in Button Auditorium.

Dr. O'Brien said approximately 450 students from MSU's service region and beyond are expected to participate in MPATE Day this year.

Additional information about MPATE Day activities is available by calling Dr. O'Brien at 606-783-9439.

Inscape accepting submissions

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Inscape, Morehead State University's literary and visual art publication, is accepting submissions in three categories for its next edition.

Contests are being held for best cover design and visual art and writing for the interior of the publication. The deadline to submit for the visual art portion is Dec. 5, the cover design deadline is Jan. 17, and literary work must be submitted by Jan. 30.

Prizes are being offered in both of the visual art competitions, with a first place prize of \$100 for the selected cover design. A \$100 award will be given for the best artwork submitted for the interior, with second, third and honorable mention prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively, to be awarded. Participants must be MSU students to enter the visual art competitions.

Students may submit poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction or drama for inclusion in the interior of the publication. Prizes of \$50 for first place will be awarded in the poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction categories. Participants must be MSU students to be awarded a literary prize, but submissions for inclusion in the magazine are open to non-students as well.

Inscape is an annual MSU publication with a long history of cutting edge visual and literary art. Media and genres of work range from prose, poetry, short story, long narrative, nonfiction and creative essays to photography, printmaking, painting, design, drawing, digital art and sculpture.

The publication is coordinated by the departments of English and Art and Design.

Additional information and the complete list of guidelines on the competitions are available at www.moreheadstate.edu/inscape.

MSU-ACTC advisor assists transfer students

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Collaboration between [Morehead State University](#) and [Ashland Community and Technical College](#) will enhance support for ACTC students that plan to transfer to MSU.

Hope Perkey has been hired as the new transfer advisor. She works at ACTC to help students plan and follow a smooth transfer path into their chosen field at MSU. Supported jointly by the two institutions, the advisor provides counseling in course selection, enrollment procedures and transfer requirements.

"We ([MSU at Ashland](#)) are so excited about expanding our partnership with ACTC. By having an advisor who will work specifically with students who begin at the community college and complete MSU degrees, we can help them to reach their educational and career goals in ways that save time and money," said Nancy Preston, MSU-Ashland director. "The partnership with the community college makes baccalaureate degree attainment a strong option for people in Northeastern Kentucky. Morehead State is our four year institution in the Ashland region.

A two-time graduate of Marshall University, Perkey started at ACTC in January 2013 and her experience with ACTC programs is helpful in her new position. Also helpful is the fact that she was once an ACTC student herself.

"Like many of our students, I started at ACTC because it was affordable and close to home," said Perkey, a 2003 Greenup Country High School graduate. "I knew that I was going to transfer to a university, but I changed my mind about my field. I had good advisors to help me along the way, and I'm trying to follow their example."

"For me, advising is more than just giving students a class schedule. You listen to their experiences and what they're going through, then you work together to choose the best path to reach their goals," Perkey said. "When they need help setting goals, we can focus on their interests, the requirements for different degrees and the employment opportunities available."

"The whole student experience is my focus, not just academics, said Perkey. "Transitioning to a university is more than processes and forms, and I can help prepare students for that away-from-home, large campus experience."

The Social Work and P-5 Elementary Education programs that are offered at MSU-Ashland are popular transfer choices, but students can transfer into any field offered by MSU.

"ACTC and MSU have always had a good working relationship, with many transfer agreements in specific fields," Perkey said. "My job is to make the process easier, to serve as one contact for many different questions about courses, enrollment, applications, credit transfer and other college procedures."

"We have concurrent enrollment so students can finish their ACTC degree and take MSU courses at the same time," she said. "For ACTC students who transferred to MSU before completing an associate degree, we have a reverse transfer process to help them complete the ACTC degree."

"We also have specific 2+2 transfer agreements in several fields, including Business Administration, the Nursing-BSN Completion Track, and a degree completer program in Technology Management. My job is to help students with all these opportunities," Perkey said.

For more information, contact Perkey at 606-326-2098 or hperkey0001@kctcs.edu .

Abby Kohut to lecture Nov. 20

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Morehead State University's Student Activities, Inclusion and Leadership (SAIL) will present "Abby Kohut: Preparing Yourself for a Career in a Global Market," Thursday, Nov. 20, at 3:30 p.m. in 419 Reed Hall.

As part of SAIL's International Education Week, an "Overseas Experience Session" is set for Nov. 20 in Riggle Room of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) from noon to 2:30 p.m. More information on International Education Week is available at www.moreheadstate.edu/sail/

Kohut's career began in computer sales. She worked for a computer reseller for five years, managing major accounts such as Bear Stearns, Grey Advertising, Gartner Group and the Museum of Natural History and was elected into Apple's Million Dollar Club. Although successful in sales, she felt most passionate about hiring and mentoring new sales reps for the company. That passion motivated her to launch her career in Human Resources and career development.

Kohut's articles on AbsolutelyAbby.com and her monthly Career Wake Up Calls inspire job seekers to stay motivated as they continue their search for their ideal job.

AbsolutelyAbby.com, which was selected as one of the "Top 100 Websites for Your Career" by Forbes in 2013, teaches candidates secrets the Absolute truth about the job search process that other recruiters won't tell you. She has presented to more than 300 groups and has provided job search tips on Fox 5, NBC, CBS, ABC, LinkedIn, Monster, Real Simple, The Ladders, Bloomberg Radio, and Forbes.

Her books "Absolutely Abby's 101 Job Search Secrets" and "Absolutely Abby's Top 12 Interview Questions Exposed" teach candidates secrets about the job search process that other recruiters won't tell you. Kohut was selected as one of the top 100 influential people online according to Fast Company Magazine and was named as one of "The Monster 11 for 2011: Career Experts Who Can Help Your Job Search."

Additional information is available by contacting Amberly Carter, coordinator of Multiculturalism and Inclusion, at 606-783-2071 or a.carter@moreheadstate.edu.

MSU 2014-15 inclement weather plan

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Morehead State University has developed a plan for announcing emergency delays and cancellations. These are most often associated with inclement weather and unpredictable weather patterns occurring in the winter months.

The University will select one of two options when dealing with delays that may affect the daily schedule of students, faculty, staff and/or visitors to the main campus. When road conditions are problematic, MSU employees and students should exercise good judgment in traveling to and from campus. Those concerned that weather conditions make it too dangerous for travel to campus should follow pre-determined procedures regarding class attendance and work assignments.

Plan A: MSU is closed. All administrative offices will be closed and classes will not meet.

Plan B: MSU will operate on a two-hour delay. Offices will open at 10 a.m. Students begin the day with the 10:20 a.m. class.

Essential service personnel will continue to report at regularly scheduled time when either plan is in operation. Each division will identify essential personnel and services to be maintained. Employees should direct questions/concerns to their immediate supervisor.

Decisions regarding regional campus closings and classes held at off campus sites will be made on an individual basis as appropriate for the service area and situations in the region.

The University uses e2Campus/Omnilert to notify the campus community of safety, weather and other emergencies by text message and email. Alerts also are delivered by email to all MSU students and employees, as well as through the MSU website (www.moreheadstate.edu), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MoreheadStateUniversity), and Twitter (@moreheadstate).

Subscribe to and manage these services at www.moreheadstate.edu/eaglealerts/.

Notices also are released to area radio and television stations.

MSU to host reception prior to Marshall game

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Morehead State University's Office of Alumni Relations and Development will host a pre-game reception before the Eagle basketball squad takes on Marshall University, Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The reception will be at the Marshall's Hall of Fame Café, 857 3rd Ave., Huntington, West Virginia, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For the occasion, appetizers will be provided by the Alumni Association, and there will be a cash bar.

Game tickets are \$15 for MSU section (upper level chair back).

Game time is set for 8 p.m. at the Cam Henderson Center.

For additional information, contact the Alumni Relations and Development Office to reserve tickets and RSVP the reception, at 606-783-2033, 800-783-ALUM or email events@moreheadstate.edu.

‘Commonwealth Curiosities’ to premiere Nov. 18

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Created By: Andrew Blanton

“Commonwealth Curiosities; An Ode to Kentucky’s Unique Attractions” a documentary by Steven Middleton, Morehead State University instructor of mass communications, will screen Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at CoffeeTree Books, 159 E Main Street Morehead.

The documentary shot during the summer of 2014 was funded via the online crowdfunding site Kickstarter.

Kickstarter is a global crowdfunding platform based in the United States. The company’s stated mission is to help bring creative projects to life.

“Commonwealth Curiosities” is a documentary that focuses on the old American roadside attractions and curiosities in Kentucky. In a vestige to days gone by, the film struck out in the state for roadside attractions, unknown gems, and places known only by those who have stumbled upon them.

With the advent of interstate highways, seen only by those willing to venture on the roads less traveled, these once treasured places have become nearly extinct. Commonwealth Curiosities brings a glimpse of these roadside attractions and the characters that are behind each unique place.

Additional information is available by contacting Middleton at 606-783-9583.

Choral Festival Concert set for Nov. 10

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



The Morehead State University Choirs will present its 55th Annual Choral Festival Concert on Monday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 123 East Main Street, Morehead.

The annual festival concert will feature Chamber Singers, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, University Chorus, Black Gospel Ensemble and Concert Choir. The choral ensembles are conducted by Drs. Greg Detweiler and Roosevelt Escalante.

The concert is free of charge.

Chamber Singer will open with the Renaissance madrigal, *Leggiadre Ninfe* followed by four contemporary Christmas selections. Included are *O magnum mysterium* by Francis Poulenc, *Benedicamus Domino* by Peter Warlock, and *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue* by Kevin Memley, and *Gloria* by Jeffrey Rickard.

University Chorus will continue the concert with *Imagine a World* by David Waggoner and *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes* arranged by Lon Beery. Jazz selections performed by Jazz Vocal Ensemble include *After the Love is Gone* by Champlin, Foster, and Graydon, *Never Give Up* by Ken Kraintz, and *Loves Me Like a Rock* and *Stolen Moments* both arranged by Darmon Meader. Black Gospel Ensemble will perform *Faithful* by Hezekiah Walker, *It's Not Over* by Israel Houghton, and *Victory* by Tye Tribett.

Concert choir will conclude with selections from Carol Barnett's *A Bluegrass Mass*. The mass is a unique work combining English and Latin text and is written for choir and Bluegrass band. Concert Choir also will perform Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Bogoroditse Devo* and Rene Clausen's *Tonight Eternity Alone*. Joseph Rivers, senior Music Education student, will conduct the motet, *O beatum et sacrosanctum diem* by Peter Phillips.

Additional information is available by calling Dr. Detweiler at 606-783-2480.

Former faculty member Carol Ann Georges dies

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Created By: Andrew Blanton



Carol Ann Georges, 73, of Maysville passed away Friday Oct. 31, at Meadowview Regional Medical Center in Maysville.

She was a graduate of Adams Township High School and Morehead State University and completed her M.A. degree in Education at the University of Kentucky.

Georges was first employed by the Maysville City Schools as one of Mason County's first special education teachers. Later she was employed as a speech and hearing therapist in Ohio's Brown, Highland and Adams counties. In 1970, she returned to Morehead State University as a faculty member in the Department of Education where she taught for 29 and received MSU's Distinguished Teaching Award. She also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Maysville Community College.

Visitation for Georges will be on Monday, Nov. 3, from 6-8 p.m. prayers at 7:45 and Nov. 4 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Brell and Son Funeral Home, 620 E. Second Street, Maysville.

Condolences may be left at www.brellandson.com.

A funeral mass will be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 110 E. 3rd St., Maysville. Burial will take place in Sugar Grove Cemetery, Wilmington.

SBDC assists florist in becoming owner

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Created By: Andrew Blanton
